

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00119 021027Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
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P 021000Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1225

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, QA
SUBJ: TRAVEL OF DAVID ROCKEFELLER TO MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 21507

1. AS OF MORNING FEB 2, MITCHELL OF CHASE-MANAGED COMMERCIAL BANK OF QATAR HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY WORD FROM ROOSEVELT RE REFTEL. MITCHELL SAID HE HAS CONTACTED CHASE TO POINT OUT THAT VISIT AS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED WILL FALL DURING PERIOD WHEN AMIR AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS GENERALLY UNAVAILABLE. AMIR'S RECEIVING HOURS, WHICH STRICTLY ADHERED TO, ARE BEFORE 1100 HRS AND AFTER 1600 HRS; KHALIFA IS A HARD WORKER, BUT INSISTS ON HIS MID-DAY BREAK. MITCHELL HAS ASKED THAT VISIT BE RE-SCHEDULED EARLIER ON MORNING OF FEB 25 AND IS AWAITING RESPONSE; CONCUR WITH HIS SUGGESTION.

2. RE SUGGESTION THAT ROCKEFELLER HOST LUNCH FOR AMIR AND OTHERS, IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY AMIR WOULD ACCEPT INVITATION, AND IT COULD EVEN BE CONSIDERED OUT-OF-LINE. ACCORDING LOCAL PROTOCOL, AMIR HOSTS WHATEVER FUNCTION HE PARTICIPATES IN WITHIN COUNTRY, AND NEVER APPEARS AS GUEST. THIS HAS HELD TRUE THROUGHOUT OUR EXPERIENCE HERE WITH ALL VIP VISITORS, UP TO AND INCLUDING CHIEFS OF STATE. MITCHELL CONCURS THAT LUNCH INVITATION TO AMIR NOT ADVISABLE. ON OTHER HAND, LUNCH FOR OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINFINANCE AND PETROLEUM SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI (AMIR'S SON) WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND WELL-RECEIVED.

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PAGE 02 DOHA 00119 021027Z

3. WE SUGGEST THAT ROCKEFELLER ADVANCE HIS ARRIVAL IN DOHA

SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE OFFCE CALL ON AMIR BEFORE 1100 HRS. IF
HE WISHES TO PROCEED WITH LUNCH FOR OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS,
THIS COULD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW MEETING WITH AMIR.

4. WE DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO IMPLY THAT QATARIS ARE OVERLY
FUSSY OR RIGID ABOUT PROTOCOL FOR VIP VISITS. HOWEVER, THEY
ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT THIS LIGHTNING-TYPE STOP OVER, PARTICULARLY
IF THEY ARE ASKED TO MAKE EXTRAORDINARY ARRANGEMENTS TO
ACCOMMODATE SUCH A BRIEF SOJOURN; ROOSEVELT SHOULD BE MADE AWARE
OF THIS. ALSO THIS IS NOT INTENDED TO INDICATE THAT AMIR AND GOQ
WOULD NOT BE OTHER THAN PLEASED WITH PROSPECT OF ROCKEFELLER
VISIT; HE WILL BE WARMLY RECEIVED AS PROMINENT AMERICAN WHOSE
ROLE IN STIMULATING US INTEREST IN ARAB WORLD KNOWN AND
APPRECIATED.

5. MITCHELL AWAITING FURTHER RESPONSE FROM CHASE RE ROCKEFELLER'S
SCHEDULE AND WE STAYING IN TOUCH.
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